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Replacing Underground Tanks  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 3

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 18, 2007

## CALL FOR ART FOR NEW TOWN OFFICE BUILDING

DEDICATION CEREMONY THIS SATURDAY

**BY DAVID DETMOLD WENDELL** - The Wendell town office building will hold its official dedication ceremony this Saturday, October 20th, at 12:30 p.m. Visitors and town residents will be able to admire the new office building's skylit rooms, handsome new offices, spacious meeting hall, and landscaped exterior. But they will also notice two long corridors of tall, nearly blank walls, begging for works of art to relieve the eye and elevate the soul.

Enter the interior design committee. "We're not picking upholstery fabric for couches," said Susan von Ranson, who along with Carolyn Manley, Mary Gilman, Jean Forward and Pam Richardson will be soliciting works from area artists to hang in the halls of the new town building this fall. The selectboard has given the committee \$1500 from excess construction funds to work with to begin to establish a permanent collection for the build-

ing. Von Ranson said she hopes that amount will allow the committee to purchase between four and five works to hang on the walls along the north-south corridor.

The town office building is L-shaped. The east-west corridor affords another wide space for art on the walls. The committee plans to approach the use of this area as a gallery space for rotating shows, with work hanging for three months or so, during the second phase of their interior design work.

For now, they are soliciting artwork from Wendell artists - and artists from neighboring towns - to be dropped off at the town office building on Morse Village Road on November 17th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The committee will act as jury for the submitted works, and select as many as they feel they can afford for the permanent collection on Sunday, November 18th. For more information about submitting work,

see ART pg 11

## Town Meeting Approves Police Station, Strathmore Spending

**BY DAVID DETMOLD MONTAGUE** - Town meeting approved spending \$5.6 million on a new police station on Thursday, October 11th - subject to the approval of a townwide debt exclusion vote to be held Tuesday, November 6th. Town meeting also passed a warrant to spend approximately \$300,000 to fix the roofs on two fire-damaged buildings at the Strathmore Mill, repair the fire alarm system there, and change the mill's sprinkler system to a dry system, to avoid the necessity of heating the 244,482-square-foot complex this winter. Spending for this article, which will come from the town's stabilization fund, is contingent on Montague actually taking the Strathmore for back taxes at a land court hearing in Boston on October 25th.

In addition to these consequential measures, the special town meeting opened with a protracted debate about the import of the town of Montague continuing to pay operating expenses from town reserves. The debate, conducted



Montague Police Chief Ray Zukowski dances a jig after town meeting voted overwhelmingly to approve spending \$5.6 million on a new police station, on October 11th. The project now moves to a townwide debt exclusion vote November 6th. (Moderator Ray Godin, background.)

largely between Mike Naughton - the former chair of the Montague finance committee - and John Hanold, the committee's present

chair, revealed doubt about the town's short-term financial stability. The back and forth began as discussion got underway on the first article of the evening, a motion to take \$297,586 from the town's free cash account to finish paying Montague's share of this year's Gill-Montague school budget.

Jeff Singleton, who served as finance committee chair in between Naughton's and Hanold's tenure, introduced the measure.

"We approved this amount at the district meeting in July, by a close vote," Singleton said. "We have no choice but to fund it one way or another. We were initially going to fund it half by a Proposition 2½ override, and half from reserves, and members of the finance committee felt strongly that that is

the fiscally responsible thing to do. But failure of the Prop 2½ - and it might have failed - would

see MEETING pg 12

## Try the Hippo for Breakfast

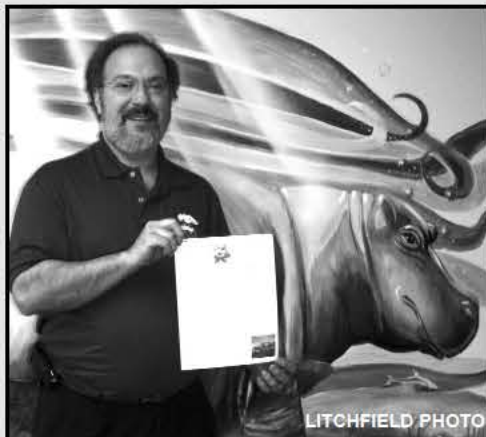
**BY KATHY LITCHFIELD ERVING** - Since he opened the Smokin' Hippo 18 months ago, customers have asked owner Gary Weiss why they couldn't get breakfast at his Route 2 way-side establishment.

Now, Weiss finds himself preparing not just traditional egg sandwiches, French toast and waffles for early morning fare, but home-smoked prime rib grilled with egg and cheese on an English muffin and home-smoked salmon with scrambled eggs and onions.

"These are two of our specialties for breakfast

that I hope people will enjoy," said Weiss, who happens to be the president of the Pioneer Valley Culinary Associates, a chapter of the American Culinary Federation. Weiss served as food service director for 13 years at Greenfield Community College.

The Smokin' Hippo, at



Gary Weiss, owner of The Smokin' Hippo

20 French King Highway is open for breakfast from 6 to 9 a.m., Tuesday through Friday, and 7 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Traditional breakfast menu items see HIPPO pg 10

## Montague, Gill Police Save a Life

**GILL** - On October 15th, Montague police chief Ray Zukowski wrote a formal letter commending four officers for their "quick response and subsequent actions" to a reported subject wishing to commit suicide by jumping off the Gill-Montague Bridge on October 7th.

"I wish to commend each of you" - patrolmen Michael Sevene and Ryan Doherty, and Sergeants Richard Suchanek and Christopher Redmond (Gill PD) - "for your performance that saved a life ..." Zukowski wrote.

"Officers Sevene and Doherty upon responding

to the bridge observed a male subject on the sidewalk. This subject stepped off the walk and fell in the roadway. The officers exited their cruisers. As the subject got up, he climbed on a Jersey barrier and proceeded to jump over the bridge railing. The officers reached through the railings and caught the subject's wrists as he started to fall. The subject would not assist in climbing back over the railing as the officers held him. The desperate officers requested help, as they held onto the subject. Sergeant Suchanek and Gill police department

Sergeant Redmond responded. Officers Sevene and Doherty managed to get a handcuff on the subject's right wrist, then attached it to the bridge railing. Sergeant Suchanek arrived and placed a second handcuff on the subject's left wrist.

The four officers were then able to successfully pull the subject back over the rail to safety and arrange for treatment of his injuries from when he fell in the road and to obtain the proper mental health counseling he needed.

This incident placed you all in a situation

see LETTER pg 8



### PET OF THE WEEK

#### Sports Fan



### Kiki

I am a four-year-old female black and white lab mix in need of a good home. I am a friendly girl with a lot of exuberance and energy. I would love a home with lots of exercise and some ongoing training. I bet I would love Frisbee, ball, or other sports! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dphvs.org.

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### CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

#### Children's Halloween Party

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
TURNERS FALLS- There will be a Children's Halloween Party at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, October 20th from 10:30 a.m. - noon. Children of all ages and

their families are invited to attend the free party. There will be refreshments, games, face painting, and arts and crafts. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. For more information, call 863-3214.

### WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NEWS

#### Art Lessons for Adults, Teens

An artist's toolbox of approaches and techniques, with instructor Sally Alley, will be offered free on the next three Mondays at the Wendell Free Library: October 22nd, October 29th, and November 5th, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Drawing is an experience combining freedom and focus. Whether drawing realistically or abstractly, many processes are at work. These workshops will explore a variety of exercises, each developing different aspects and skills of the artistic process. Sponsored in part by the Wendell cultural council.

#### Halloween Wings: Fairies, Dragons and Butterflies

A free workshop on creating wearable cardboard art for kids (ages 2-8) and parents, will be held on Saturday, October 20th, at the Wendell Free Library, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., with instructor David Coy. Please bring adult scissors.

#### Making Scarecrows

A free workshop for kids and parents will be held on Saturday, October 27th at the Wendell Free Library from 10 - 11 a.m. Please bring scarecrow clothes and hats.

#### Victorian Christmas Trip for G-M Seniors

A Victorian Christmas at the Williams Inn in Williamstown, MA on Thursday December 6th. \$69.00 per person. The package includes: Roundtrip motor

coach, Boar's Head Procession, a lovely Gourmet Buffet, Holiday Entertainment, Yule Log Celebration, Hot Wassail, Williams Inn Gift Shop, Meals

*Greenfield Community College Presents*  
**Ghost Hunter & Paranormal Research Archaeologist, Jeff Davis**  
**Monday, October 29th, 2007**  
Noon - Sloan Theater  
*Free and open to the public.*

**CRAFT FAIR**  
The Silver Star Craft Fair, Oct. 20th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 20 Masonic Ave. in Turners Falls will be featuring an Apple Pie Contest at 10:30 a.m.  
PIES should be in the hall between 10 and 10:15 a.m.  
We will have three judges to judge the pies for first and second prizes which are donated by Dunkin' Donuts, as the sponsors.

### FACES & PLACES

#### Will Juggle for Food



PHOTO BY JOEY R. PARZYCH

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**

**GILL** - Malik Odeh, of Gill, who just turned 14, is an accomplished self-taught juggler. He can keep as many as 5 balls circulating in the air. Swords are another story. He performs that act with three, as seen here at the Gill Arts & Crafts Festival on Saturday. And so far, he still has all his fingers.

Marvelous Malik is available for parties. He has not yet worked out a fee schedule, but at the weekend festival, where Odeh received lots of admiration for his skills, the organizers bought him his lunch.

Malik has also mastered riding a unicycle. It won't be long before he'll be juggling while riding the unicycle. Since there are no handle bars, he has to do something with his hands. He may not use swords on his first attempt at combining skills, in case he later needs his hands for riding a bike with handle-bars.

tips and taxes, driver tip. The Groaning Board Menu includes, Cold Fish Mirror, Cheeses, Fruits, Salad Bar, Hot Soup, Salmon, Scrod, Veal, Pasta, Lamb, Vegetables, Potato, Fine Breads, Fresh-sliced Roast

Beef, Turkey, Ham and an array of tempting desserts!

To reserve a space please call Bunny Caldwell at 413-863-9357 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays or leave a message on the answering machine.

#### GFMS Students of the Week

**Grade 6:**

Meaghan Horan

**Grade 7:**

Meredith Brown  
Timothy Meyer

**Grade 8:**

Christopher Gordon

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### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Oct. 22nd - 26th

**GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

**Monday, 22nd**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

**Tuesday, 23rd**

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

**Wednesday, 24th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 25th**

1:00 p.m. Pitch

**Friday, 26th**

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

A suggested donation of \$1.00 per exercise is appreciated.

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shop-

ping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

**Monday, 22nd**

9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch

**Tuesday, 23rd**

9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting

**Wednesday, 24th**

9:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Weight Loss Group  
12 Noon Bingo

**Thursday, 25th**

9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

**WENDELL Senior Center**, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at 978 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

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# United ARC Celebrates Groundbreaking

BY MATTHEW ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** - "We want to be part of the downtown Turners resurgence," explained Chris Peltier, family support director of the United ARC of Franklin and Hampshire Counties, a regional advocacy group for people with developmental disabilities. "We took a junky backyard and made it look like this." He pointed to the backyard of the ARC's Fifth Street Project in Turners, now mulched and landscaped with flower gardens, and sporting a new play area, while a spontaneous debate about the Patriots-Dallas game heated up around him. A small group of neighbors sat on lawn chairs trying to keep dry, sipping cider and eating snacks. A toddler looked longingly at the backyard slide, but it was still



Susan Jones receives a Certificate of Achievement award from Ed Porter at the groundbreaking ceremony for the United Arc's backyard garden and play area on Fifth Street in Turners Falls

tied with a big red ribbon, and dripping wet. It was Wednesday, October 10th, and the United ARC's executive director, Ed Porter, decided to begin the ribbon cutting ceremony for the backyard play area renovation at the community living apartments even though it was still raining. He

owned by the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, are now home to ARC clients, living independently and receiving as needed counseling, cooking and cleaning help from ARC staff. When the project is complete, six apartments will house ARC clients, and one will house a host family.

The ceremony concluded with Joe and Marie Bete, of the Bete Family Trust, officially cutting the big red ribbon over the slide. They provided funding for the transformation of the backyard into a landscaped garden and play area. The slide was dried off and little Willie and Nick took turns siding down it. After the ceremony, the football conversation continued.

# Wendell Meetinghouse Work Day



Melissa Godfrey of Montague Road raking topsoil on the Meetinghouse lawn

spruce up the exterior. Gerry Eide of Old Stage Road replaced damaged clapboards in the front of the building and repaired framing around the door. Other volunteers removed rocks from the lawn that had made mowing more difficult, filled in the holes with topsoil, and spread topsoil and grass seed in bare

spots. They also picked up trash from the Meetinghouse grounds and the gazebo on the nearby common. The message kiosk was repaired and painted. Kaynor provided lunch for the volunteers (clam chowder, lentil soup, sandwiches, apple cider, and apple crisp fresh from the oven).



DOBOSZ PHOTO

## Fall Fun

Approximately 150 people attended the Montague Parks and Recreation's Annual Fall Fun Day, with pumpkin carving and scarecrow making at Unity Park on Saturday, October 13th. Steve Melnick of Deerfield donated the pumpkins, and Andy Carson of Millers Falls donated the hay. At left, Bianca Martin of Millers Falls, carves a giant jack-o-lantern.

## CORRECTION

Last week, the front page headline on the Wendell Community Garden story gave an incorrect dimension for the garden plot. It is a two acre plot, not a 3.4 acre plot.

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## Back to the Tap

**BY EMILY MONOSSON**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - This week, Nestle Water North America announced it was suspending its plan to explore the aquifer below the Montague Plains as the source for a potential water bottling plant in our community. So it seems Montague residents won't be paying \$2 a bottle to purchase our own pure Montague Plains water, at least not from Nestle, at least not in the near future.

But that's no reason to let down our guard. That was the message from Tuesday evening's meeting at the Montague Grange of the Montague Alliance to Protect our Water. Following a detailed 'tour' of water flow in the Plains and the aquifer below, hydrogeologist Nancy Caffall (formerly with the state Department of Environmental Protection) noted, "this kind of formation is particularly attractive for bottling companies."

That's one reason to keep on guard. Although Nestle may have found drilling on state land too "complicated," because of the nature of the aquifer and the profitability of a good water source there is always the potential for Nestle or another corporate bottler to pursue access to the aquifer through private land abutting the state-owned Plains.

"A municipal official from the town of Montague should ask if Nestle is talking to other property owners in the area," suggested Russ Cohen, of the Department of Fish and Game Riverways Program, prompting discussion of how best to inform nearby property owners of the larger impact, and potential risks of opening the door to a Nestle representative.

What would it take to discourage or deny drilling permits in the state of Massachusetts? In addition to various Massachusetts DEP

regulations, said Caffall, there is also the Massachusetts Water Management Act, which requires that water withdrawals not stress the host river basin. That is, all withdrawals to a particular basin are considered rather than a proposal by proposal approach, or one that considers only the impact to nearby surface waters.

Ironically, what makes spring water Spring Water is that it must be withdrawn from a location that is hydrogeologically connected to a surface stream. In other words, sites that are most attractive to bottlers are sites that are often more ecologically sensitive - with nearby habitat and freshwater fish streams.

And, said Kirt Mayland, director of the New England office of the Eastern Water Project of Trout Unlimited, the bottled water industry wants to keep it this way - rather than going to sites where there would be less impact. For example, in Wisconsin, bottlers have drilled wells near some of the best trout streams in the region, Mayland said.

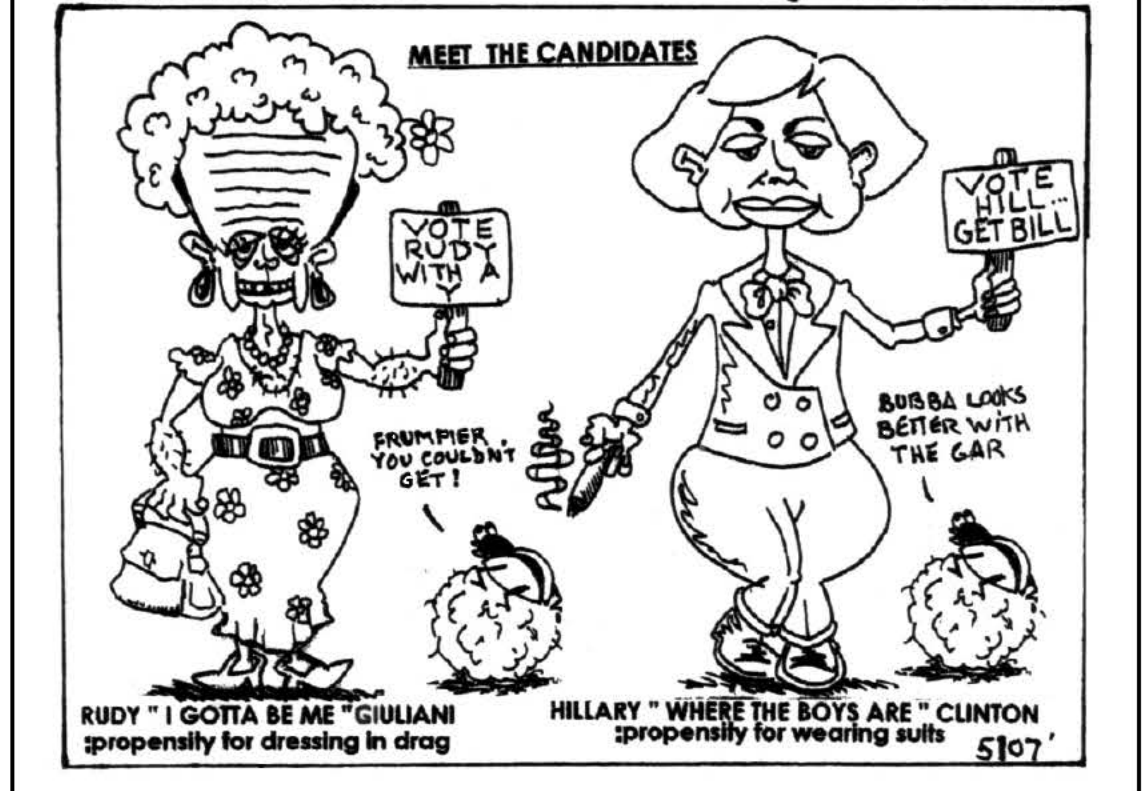
In Montague's case, Nestle didn't get as far as evaluation of impacts on nearby streams, or host river basins, in part thanks to Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution. In addition to guaranteeing the people's right to public resources, Article 97 also grants that removal of natural resources from public lands must be in the best interest for wildlife and wildlife habitat. So unless, like us, critters living on the Plains have turned to bottled water, it's hard to envision how corporate withdrawal of three million gallons a year of water from the aquifer would be of benefit to them.

But as one meeting participant pointed out, "While

see TAP page 6

### BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Offended by Cartoon, Bland Reporting

The "holiday" officially known as Columbus Day passed on October 8th, and it got me thinking about an article and a cartoon you published back in early September. I apologize for the delay, but I think it's still necessary to raise some concerns that I felt should have been obvious prior to publication. The most recent issue reviewed Winona LaDuke's talk at Greenfield Community College, but I wanted to make sure the connection was drawn between some of the points she made and some recent content of the Reporter.

I was glad to see the article "Airport Runway Project Delayed," about the proposed runway expansion at Turner's Falls airport, but I was dismayed to see the airport commission's statement that a ceremonial site members of the Narragansett and Wampanoag tribes are fighting to protect still has "not been determined by the archeological community to be of cultural significance." The "archeological community?" Are you seriously telling me that when two tribes that were here for thousands of years before their land was stolen by Europeans, and that are still here, tell you that a site is significant to them, you're going to turn to a bunch of archeologists for your information instead? To my mind this is a really strange preference for secondary rather than primary knowledge on the part of the airport commission, blandly repeated by the Reporter.

This may seem minor to some people, but I'd like to point out that the U.S. is a country that has actively carried out a program of genocide against the native nations of this continent for centuries. This genocide has also been actively resisted since

Christopher Columbus washed up on shore in 1492, but it won't stop until the dominant culture (white culture) comes to terms with the fact that the eradication of a people is also about the eradication of their own distinct culture, which is very much an ongoing process, though some of the means have changed over time.

We have to acknowledge that when we deny people's authority on matters relating to their own culture, we deny the existence of that culture in the present.

I was much more shocked by a cartoon in the same issue. It depicted an airplane taking off with a banner reading "Turner's Falls Runway Extension on Hold" above the words "Will we ever get this thing off the ground?" I have to admit I'm not personally that anxious to have more runways, more airplanes, and more global warming contributing to the extinction of an insane number of species in my lifetime. But when I looked more closely at the illustration, I noticed the arrows protruding from the little plane's tires. I get it. I've seen my share of cowboy and Indian movies, and I'm white. I know the reaction this type of symbolism is supposed to elicit in me. The cartoon didn't explicitly say, "Will these damn Indians ever stop holding up progress?" but it might as well have.

I'm sure you meant well. But meaning well isn't enough. This isn't just about history, this is about what's going on now, and our words and actions still matter. Colonialism and imperialism are ongoing and we all have the choice to take sides. Generally, I like the paper a lot, but I was genuinely surprised that no other readers responded to these items in the

September 13th issue before now.

- Andrew St. Jean Gill

**Editor Replies:** In the next sentence of the article you cite (Airport Runway Project Delayed, MR V#44), we quote Narragansett deputy tribal historic preservation officer Doug Harris' response to the Turners Falls airport commission's frequent public statements that the stone site at the airport has "not been determined to be of significance by the archeological community." Harris responds, "that is because the archeologists do not understand their purpose, although such stone formations are widespread throughout the East Coast, extending west to the mound building societies of the Mississippi Valley..."

see OFFENDED pg 5

**We welcome your letters**  
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GUEST EDITORIAL

# Can Montague Sparkle?

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR.

Volunteer efforts to remove litter and clean up the streets of Turners Falls are commendable. Town administrative goals for new parks, and new uses for old buildings, are also examples of how to put a clean face on our town.

In addition to these singular efforts, though, we need two additional attributes in place to clean up litter and build a reputation for a safe and "sparkling" appearance. These are a sustained effort, and a strong anti-litter policy. This will take an aggressive, long-term, collaborative effort between town officials, all town departments, and all our residents.

Sustainability, or constant attention to the problem, is key to our longer-term success in achieving "programmed" street sparkle. Some of our ancient

bylaws need to be revisited and revised. Litter, uncurbed dogs, unsightly porch storage, abandoned equipment, 'opportunity' parking of excess equipment on vacant lots; illegal dumping; unpainted residences; falling fences; and 'free' junk items left on the curb, are all problems that presently need to be addressed. They should be aggressively dealt with by town enforcement, backed by the collaborative efforts of neighbors and a well-publicized set of litter and landlord 'upkeep' bylaws. More disposal baskets and signage that proclaims a "zero-tolerance" policy on litter may also help. Such anti-littering signs should be placed at each major road entrance to Montague, and elsewhere throughout town, emphasizing a town-wide intolerance for littering.

Such a bylaw would specify, among other possibilities, prohibitions on littering of any type (including small items such as soda cups, candy wrappers, and cigarette butts); prohibitions against illegal dumping of household items; time-limits for 'stored' furniture and other household items piled on street-side porches and yards; a 24-hour limit on 'free' items placed at curbside; business frontage upkeep bylaws; and restrictions concerning exterior building and property conditions. Language to such effect could also be placed in tax rebate incentives offered to new businesses. There should be a substantial system of fines for individual litter offenses.

We have to adopt a collective attitude of ownership toward our environment and insist that others not use either our streets

or local natural areas as a dumping ground. Business and property owners could be given time limits for cleanup or fix-up issues prior to starting any fines.

A strong anti-litter bylaw could provide for parental responsibility for underage children and a community service program of litter collection might be implemented as a non-monetary method of working off fines.

Fiscal resource support for a sustained program is necessary. Over time, a standing legal contingency reserve fund should be developed specifically to address issues and legal expenses surrounding business and rental property owners who abandon or fail to repair unsightly aspects of their property. Funding for bulk pickups at curbside is required. Financing for these needs are no different than financing our other town requirements. They should be part and parcel of the budget planning process.

Efforts should be directed toward financing at least one full time laborer for the highway department whose spring to fall job description would be primarily devoted to picking up refuse bags collected by neighborhood Clean Teams, mowing street easements; and maintenance of park areas and the bike pathway. The department should have a minimum of one day per month during the spring through fall when several employees devote their time to a specific 'spruce up,' pick up, and street-sweep of a particular area or set of streets. Otherwise, clean up efforts will always seem less important than other pressing issues of the current workday, when employee numbers are limited.

Many towns and cities, even "old mill towns," have made great appearance improvements through the use of aggressive anti-litter laws, constant attention to blight problems, and strong well-enforced policies. These efforts cannot help but attract new businesses, residents, and visitors. Our history of both administrative and volunteer town enhancement efforts are commendable, but, longer term, these will fade away from a failure to aggressively address the appearance issue on sustainably.

A truly clean town is a matter of attitude and sustained effort. It is a matter of thoughtful programming to counteract those who leave their litter for all of us to pick up or see. It is a matter of our collaborative willingness to make it so.

Can Montague sparkle?

OFFENDED

from previous page

We have also printed the tribes' perspective on the significance of the stone formation at the airport in numerous articles prior to this, including "Tribes Appeal for Help on Airport Site," on June 14th, 2007, (MR V#36), where we quote Harris directly about the "active" significance of the airport site: "The ceremonies that were put in place here were put in place to be part of the living landscape. The medicine is not a short-lived medicine. It is there to put things in balance."

When we print a cartoon, it does not necessarily reflect our editorial view of the issue lampooned. For example, if we were to print a cartoon of presidential candidate John McCain singing "Bomb, bomb, bomb, Bomb, bomb Iran" it would not

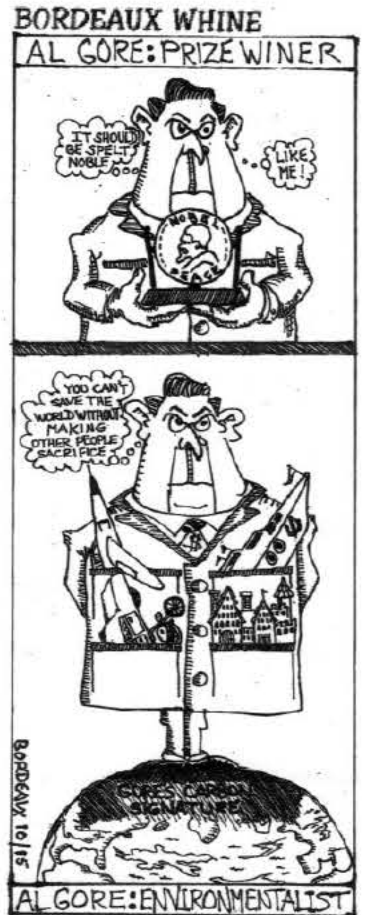


mean we endorse this course of action, rather that we wish to point out that a presidential candidate is advocating things like this in public.

In this case, the airport cartoon was intended to draw attention to a viewpoint evident in the community regarding the delay in the runway project. (For more evidence of this viewpoint, go to the www mon-

taguema.net website and search for the term "Indians" and read townspeople's comments on the issue.)

Generally, we try to allow both sides to state their case in a news article. We state our opinions in editorials. For an example of our position on Native concerns, go to the Montague Reporter link on the www.montaguema.net website and click on 'editorials' and look for the January 8th, 2004 article titled "Turners Falls Indians," which concludes: "Calling the sports teams 'Indians' in a town founded on the site of the massacre of Native Americans is a disgrace. Calling them the 'Turners Falls Indians' compounds the injury. It would be like calling a ball team in Auschwitz the 'Hitler Jews'."



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**TO THE  
EDITOR:**

# More Thoughts on Zoning Lawsuit

I made a mistake, as a couple of letter writers pointed out last week, in reporting in the October 4th issue (*MR VI #1*) that the side setback of the new Wendell town office building involved a variance because it is half what the code requires. It is a large building, and it seems very close, but it is within zoning requirements in its setback from Brian Anderson's lot line. The

variance obtained for the town office building involves only the front setback. I apologize for not checking my facts.

A second line in the article that Dan Keller claimed is in error (Dan is the member of the selectboard I talked to for the article) was unfortunately edited by the *Reporter* in a way that probably triggered his reaction. I asked Dan in the abstract whether the selectboard's forwarding of a

letter to the insurance company implied that "the selectboard feels the request (here the published version read "Anderson's request") has some validity." He answered my question in the affirmative, an answer that couldn't reveal the selectboard's sense of the legitimacy of the Anderson lawsuit since the question was theoretical; no letter had been received or sent. I was

actually trying to learn to what extent the selectboard might have to address the substance when a legal issue like Brian's comes up, and to what extent it can avoid substantive engagement with the concerns of an aggrieved citizen and leave the whole matter to its insurance carrier.

Contrary to Dan's final point, the article didn't concern whether the town "steamrolled" Brian

Anderson's interests regarding the building's location. The closest question to that which the article raised was whether a citizen was, essentially, forgotten in the planning stages, then not properly honored or just minimally dealt with by the selectboard once an issue was raised. Dan didn't directly address that.

- Jonathan von Ranson  
Wendell

## MCTV Schedule Channel 17: Oct. 19th - Oct. 25th

### Friday, October 19

8:00 am Carlos W. Anderson: "Shekinah"  
9:00 am Montague Select Board (10/9/07)  
10:00 am Art Fest 2007  
11:30 am Discovery Center: Butterflies  
6:00 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Powerful Pulleys  
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (10/9/07)  
9:30 pm Over Ridge: Herb Bergquist "Beavers"  
10:00 pm Independent Voices #37  
10:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall

9:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription  
10:30 pm There and Back

### Tuesday, October 23

8:00 am Montague Update: TBD  
9:00 am Montague Select Board: (10/9/07)  
10:00 am Seabrook 1977  
11:30 am Common Man Concerts: Cowbell Prescription  
12:30 pm There and Back  
6:00 pm The GED Connection #22: Passing The GED Science Test  
6:30 pm Independent Voices #37  
7:00 pm GMRSD (10/9/07)  
9:30 pm Special Town Meeting (10/11/07)

### Saturday, October 20

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Powerful Pulleys  
9:00 am GMRSD Meeting (10/9/07)  
11:30 am Over The Falls: Herb Bergquist "Beavers"  
12:00 pm Independent Voices #37  
12:30 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall  
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Rehabilitating Urinary Incontinence in Women"  
7:30 pm GED Connection #22: Passing The GED Science Test  
8:00 pm Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/16/07)  
9:30 pm Coffee House Series: Taft Mountain Singers

### Wednesday, October 24

8:00 am GED Connection #22: Passing The GED Science Test  
8:30 am Independent Voices #37  
9:00 am GMRSD (10/9/07)  
11:30 am Special Town Meeting (10/11/07)  
6:00 pm NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Powerful Pulleys  
7:00 pm GED Connection #23: Life Science  
7:30 pm Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/16/07)  
9:00 pm The Well Being: "Rehabilitating Urinary Incontinence in Women"  
10:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall

### Sunday, October 21

8:00 am The Well Being: "Rehabilitating Urinary Incontinence in Women"  
9:00 am GED Connection #22: Passing The GED Science Test  
9:30 am Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/16/07)  
11:00 am Coffee House Series: Taft Mountain Singers  
6:30 pm Special Town Meeting (10/11/07)  
9:00 pm Windchanger: Halloween  
10:00 pm Peoples Harvest (2006)

### Thursday, October 25

8:00 am NASA Sci Files: The Case of the Powerful Pulleys  
9:00 am GED Connection #23: Life Science  
9:30 am Great Falls Middle School: Football (10/16/07)  
11:00 am The Well Being: "Rehabilitating Urinary Incontinence in Women"  
12:00 pm Common Man Concerts: Stephanie Marshall  
12:30 pm Discovery Center: Waterfowl Identification  
6:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: "Stick-To-It-Ive-ness"  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (10/9/07)  
8:00 pm Coffee House Series: Taft Mountain Singers  
10:00 pm Montague Update: TBA

### Monday, October 22

8:00 am Special Town Meeting (10/11/07)  
10:30 am Windchanger: Halloween  
11:30 am Peoples Harvest (2006)  
6:00 pm Montague Update: TBD  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (10/9/07)  
8:00 pm Seabrook 1977

## TAP

continued from pg 4

Article 97 seemed like a real silver bullet, and although it has the most wonderful language for resource protection, there are a lot of terrible plans that happen. In this case the state may have been sensitive to all the opposition because it's on state land."

Most legislation regulating and protecting water was passed in the days when people drank water from the kitchen sink, or the bubbler down the hall, before the rise of the multi-billion dollar bottled water industry. There are legislative loopholes, and corporations with deep pockets can ferret them out.

The extraction of a common trust resource is one issue. Water should be as free and accessible as the air we breathe. But between the trucking and the bottling, the industry has plenty of other environmental impacts on their conscience as well.

"There's a whole lot of trucking," stressed Mayland, who noted that because the industry is so reliant on trucking, and because fuel prices are soaring, and because we here in the Northeast are major consumers of bottled water, the Route 91 corridor is of particular interest to bottled water developers, as are other locations in the Northeast that combine access to good water with access

to good roads.

There is no doubt we have, in part, brought this upon ourselves by becoming a culture reliant upon bottled water. According to the group Corporate Accountability International, "One of the most visible examples of corporate control of water is bottled water. It is the fastest growing sector of the US beverage market and just three corporations - Coke, Pepsi and Nestlé - make up over half of the US bottled water market. These corporations are privatizing our water, bottling it and selling it back to us at prices hundreds, even thousands of times what tap water costs. They have turned a shared common resource into a \$100 billion global market - and one of the world's fastest growing branded beverages."

But if corporate greed isn't enough to make you think twice about purchasing that next bottle of Aquafina, Poland Springs, or Evian, then think locally. We all know what happens to bottles that aren't recycled: they're tossed into garbage, flattened along the roadside, or floating down the river. Then there is the toxic side of plastic bottles, deriving from plastic's ability to leach small amounts of toxicants into drinking water.

It's time to turn back to the tap, relinquish the bottle, and protect our municipal waters.

If you want to learn more about our water resources, the

Montague Alliance to Protect Our Waters will be sponsoring several events this fall, beginning with, "Walk the Aquifer: Montague Plains and the Bitzer Fish Hatchery," on October 27th and November 10th, and a public screening of "Thirst: Fighting the Corporate Theft of Our Water," on November 18th.

For more information, or to become involved with water protection in general, check out the Clean Water Fund ([www.cleanwaterfund.org](http://www.cleanwaterfund.org)).

## Joint Committee on Tourism to Visit Turners

On Monday, October 22nd, the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development, co-chaired by Senator Brian Joyce (D-Milton) and State Representative Eric Turkington (D-Falmouth), will visit sites in Turners Falls, following the last in a series of statewide public forums at the White Church in Historic Deerfield, which will begin at 10:30 a.m. The forum is aimed at soliciting ideas from Franklin County's cultural and tourism communities and the general public to help the committee develop policies that strengthen tourism, arts, and culture in Massachusetts. "They usually visit one community in each region," said Dan Laroche, Montague town planner. "This time they picked Turners. It's very exciting." The committee will visit the Discovery Center, the Hallmark Museum, and hear a presentation from town officials.

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# For Many Families, the Choice is Clear: GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

BY ALI URBAN

For some families, the draw to Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School is the new facility. For others, it's the athletic programs. The courses offered and the communications with teachers also have had a positive effect in bringing families to the district schools. Many comment on the professionalism of the staff.

This year, 26 students in Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School have had new and unique opportunities because they choiced in to the GMRSD.

"When I first came to Turners, I was really excited about a new experience in a new town," said TFHS senior Samuel "Sam" Johnson, of Greenfield. In his fifth year in the GMRSD, he said he has never regretted the decision to 'choice in' to the district.

"I've had a lot of great opportunities here," he said, adding that attending a newly-renovated school has allowed him to take advantage of new technology and classes, such as video production.

For Catherine Marcum of Greenfield and her daughter, Jasmine, a seventh grader at Great Falls Middle School, the draw of the new facility and the positive feedback they received influenced them to investigate the school.

"We took the tour (of the school) and - Wow! - we were definitely impressed," Marcum said. "The overall condition and cleanliness of the grounds and buildings were great, and the athletic facilities are superior," she added.

Parents and students agree that athletics at GFMS and TFHS played a role in their decision to choice in. Sam,

who plays football, swims and leads the boys tennis team as first singles player, is grateful for the opportunity to swim competitively. TFHS is the only public school in Franklin County with a swim team.

"There are a wide variety of sports and good programs, and the coaches keep you coming back," he said.

For Jasmine, playing field hockey has allowed her to make new friends and get to know upperclassmen. Her mother appreciates the kindness and helpfulness of older athletes.

After investigating other options, Claire Hughes of Greenfield and her son Joseph decided that GFMS best suited their needs.

"We have had expectations of good communication with the teachers, and they have more than exceeded what we thought," she said. She was impressed by teachers' efficient response to her concerns, and the way they keep parents up to date on their children's work.

Marcum agreed. GFMS and TFHS utilize Edline, an internet-based service that enhances communication between schools and parents and gives parents the opportunity to check itemized grade reports, read important announcements and view class calendars.

"I love that I can go on-line



ALI URBAN PHOTO

TFHS Senior Sam Johnson works out in the TFHS weight room. He is one of 26 students who school choice into TFHS and GFMS. One of the benefits for Johnson is the state-of-the-art athletic facility.

and get grade updates daily and e-mail her teachers with any questions and get answers back within a day," she said. "Everyone so far has been more than pleasant, and very helpful."

Hughes found this to be true when she spoke with parents of current students. "Everyone I spoke with who had already had students in the school had very positive experiences with regards to (principal) Jeff Kenney. He really shows an interest in the students, staff and parents, as well as the whole community," she said.

She noted, "Mr. Kenney gave us and another family a very thorough tour of the school and was most gracious

in answering any questions we had. Joseph feels that he has been well received by everyone at the school, and is very positive about his experience in the new setting."

At the middle school, Joseph has been able to participate in unique and interesting programs. His interest in computers and photography led him to become involved with student council. "These are areas where he can really make a contribution," Hughes said. "The transition from a small school to a much larger one can be quite a challenge, and these opportunities have helped make the move a lot easier."

Joseph also participates in after-school swimming and Tae Kwan Do instructions, and looks forward to taking advantage of the "huge"

sports program at school. Hughes and her son also recognize the benefit of daily physical education and art classes.

"Overall, our experience so far has been very good," Marcum said. "Jasmine is eager to get to school every day."



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**  
Free Film Showing Sunday, October 21st, at 1 p.m. and Wednesday, October 24th, at 6 p.m.

### Who Killed The Electric Car?

A documentary about the zero emissions mandate in California, the development of the electric car, and its subsequent removal from the market. All events held in the Co-op's Meeting Room. See in-store flyer for more info!



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**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL PLANNING BOARD**

**Senior Center Reuse of Old Library Approved; Good Neighbors Seeks Move to Town Hall**

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN**  
**WENDELL** - Dan Keller represented the building committee, and Kathy Swaim represented the council on aging at the planning board's October 16th, 7 p.m. continuation of the site plan hearing for reuse of the old town library, on the corner of Montague and Lockes Village roads. Keller, a selectboard member, said the town's application had changed since the hearing opened on October 2nd. The Good Neighbors food pantry has since abandoned their bid to use the basement of the 735-square-foot building for food storage and weekly distribution to the approximately 40 or 50 households that use the food pantry. The volunteers at Good Neighbors organize Sunday afternoon food pick-up of surplus or out of code items donated each week by area supermarkets and the USDA. Although the pantry's new plan has not been endorsed by all concerned, Good Neighbors is now hoping to move into the town hall for food storage and distribution, which would solve the parking, pedestrian

access, and space issues their original plan presented at the former library. The conservation commission, which now uses the front room of the town hall as an office space, might use the old library basement for storage of records and maps, or they might use a room in the new town office building instead, if the food pantry moves to the town hall space. With Good Neighbors bowing out of the application process, the remaining site plan considerations for the old library were much simplified. Swaim said events at the senior center have seldom been crowded, and parking is not likely to become an issue. The only exception that came to mind was last flu season when there was a run on flu shots, because the vaccine was in short supply. Even then the people who came were spread out through the day, and no more than ten were at the clinic at any one time. Swaim said she would like to increase the number of people attending senior center events and serve a larger demographic, so the space

might be used more often than for just the once-a-month senior health clinics. Planning board chair Deirdre Cabral said that after the walls are removed from the old library, and the kitchen and bathroom are installed, fire chief Everett Ricketts should inspect and determine the maximum number of people the building can hold. She added that crosswalks should be painted in from parking across the street, and that the highway department should be kept aware of events that might use all the parking available at the building. But the planning board did not hold up the permit for the library's renovation, and the hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m. Cabral brought in what was left of a prize-winning peach pie and whipped cream, which she offered to people in the room. The slices were small, but she said, "take more than one." She also mentioned to Keller that the planning board only has three members, and will need four, at least for the next month, to be able to rule legally on a special permit.

**Gill Mobil Replaces Underground Tanks!**

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH** - Big things are happening at the Gill Mobil station; big tanks in particular. The old double walled tanks were not leaking gasoline; but sensors detected water in the space between the walls of two tanks. As a precaution, Rice Oil Company is replacing all of the tanks. "It could have been infiltration of ground water through a breach in the outer wall of the plastic coated steel

and will last at least 30 years, "possibly forever, since they do not rust." Branco said the groundwater beneath the tanks did not register any gasoline contamination, but was pumped out and filtered anyway. "Ground water is pumped out and double filtered, first through one carbon filter and then a second one, before discharge into the sewer



Dan Lively at the controls of Davenport's Volvo excavator digs deep for a new 12,000 gallon fiberglass reinforced double walled gasoline tank. Ground water is pumped out, filtered and sent down the sewer.

tanks," Joe Humel of Advanced Tank Testing company of South Deerfield said. "Or it could have been water leaking in a pipe fitting. But no [fuel] product leaked out of any tank." Engineer Dolores Branco of Environmental Management Associates of Erving said the new tanks are made of fiberglass reinforced plastic

system." Davenport Trucking is the excavating sub-contractor to Rice Oil Company, which is acting as general contractor. Davenport trucked the excavated blacktop to Ted Ondrick's asphalt plant in Chicopee for recycling. The tank replacement project will take about a month to complete.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

**Suspicious Activity and a Stolen Car**

**Tuesday 10-9**  
 9:04 p.m. Assisted Bernardston Police with search for stolen motor vehicle. Vehicle later found crashed in Leyden.  
 10:33 p.m. Call reporting that a guest at their residence was caught smoking crack. Subject told by homeowner to leave. Will call if they return. Caller wanted police to know if any future calls to residence.

**Wednesday 10-10**  
 6:50 a.m. Assisted with motor vehicle accident at Turners Falls Road and Rt. 10.  
 10:50 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency on French King Highway.

**Thursday 10-11**  
 8:50 p.m. 911 abandoned call at Main Road residence, upon arrival all was determined to be o.k.

**Friday 10-12**  
 4:03 a.m. Report of suspicious activity at West Gill Road residence.  
 12:03 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at French King Highway and Main Road.  
 6:10 p.m. Suspicious activity at West Gill Road residence.  
 11:16 p.m. West Gill Road residence reporting possible prowler outside of residence. Checked area, unable to locate.

**Saturday 10-13**  
 1:20 p.m. Criminal charges sought against [redacted]. Charged with operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed and following too closely.

**Sunday 10-14**  
 11:31 a.m. Alarm at French King Highway location, checked all secure.

**Tuesday 10-16**  
 9:50 a.m. Report of suspicious subjects sleeping in vehicle at Main Road business.

**LETTER** from page 1 where you saved a life by putting yourselves in great danger. Your timely response, quick thinking under extreme pressure and teamwork was truly remarkable. Again I

commend you for a job well done, that saved a life," Zukowski wrote. The commendation was copied to the Montague selectboard and Gill police chief David Hastings.

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**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

**Doherty Appointed Fulltime Officer**

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON - Chief Chris Blair of the Erving police department seemed pleased to announce the appointment of a new fulltime officer, bringing his department up to a full complement. The selectboard swore in officer Ryan Doherty; he joins the Erving police department from the Montague force, and comes with high praise from his former chief and colleagues. Blair said Doherty will be a great asset to the Erving department, since he is certified as a firearms instructor and for finger print analysis, which will come in handy, as they say, since Erving like surrounding towns has been experiencing a high rate of break-ins recently.

Board member Linda Downs-Bembury said she has a good feeling about officer Doherty. "He looks to be as honest as the day is long." Congratulations were given to Blair on the new appointment, before the board turned to other business.

A quick update on the assistant tax collector position

was given by administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. The town has received four outstanding applicants, who are lined up for interviews. The board is confident the position will soon be filled.

The decorative street lights that line Route 2 in Erving Center were the subject of discussion. The 38 lamps have been on from dusk till dawn, and the town has been monitoring their expense. Recently, Erving purchased 12 timer units that allow the lamps to be turned off in the wee hours instead of waiting for daylight to deactivate them. Since May 21st, the 12 lights on timers have shown a savings of \$50.00 a month. The board decided to purchase and install 12 more timers, but to also keep the remaining lights in high trafficked areas and intersections on until daylight.

The demolition of the Usher Mill will begin either on October 23rd or 24th.

Further down the road, the Route 2 Improvement Committee recently received some good news on the Farley

upgrade. The upgrade of that stretch of road is eligible for federal aid for more than two million dollars.

Downs-Bembury noted the town's cable committee will have a table set up at the fall festival at Veterans Park in Erving, scheduled for Saturday, October 20th, with a petition asking ComCast to provide PEG (public, educational, and governmental programming) access to the Erving Elementary School, and hopefully to the senior center as well.

The board scheduled a tax classification hearing for Monday, October 29th at 7:15 p.m. at the town hall, to set the tax rate for the coming year. That same night, the board will hold a hearing at 6:30 regarding the Community Development Strategy and the town's application for a Community Development Block Grant from the state of Massachusetts. The public is invited to attend.

The board nominated Art Johnson as an alternate animal inspector for the town.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG**  
**Rolling Car and Lost Dog**

**Wednesday 10-10**

7:18 a.m. Report of a one-car roll over accident on Route 2 at Erving Paper Mill.

9:00 a.m. Report of a larceny. Flashing yellow lights from construction barrels on Lester Street stolen overnight.

10:30 a.m. Suspicious person reported at French King Restaurant. Found to be employee. Everything was normal.

**Friday 10-12**

7:08 p.m. Report of lost dog, dalmation breed, in area of French King Bridge. Checked area, unable to locate.

**Saturday 10-13**

10:20 a.m. Report of cat hit by car on Route 2 at Greenfield Auto. Animal found. Owner advised of situation.

2:30 p.m. 911 medical call at a Maple Avenue address for a back injury. Ambulance contacted for transport.

3:40 p.m. Unattended and running tractor trailer in middle of Moore Street. Owner found and advised to move same.

7:43 p.m. Alarm sounding at state forest headquarters. Checked building with key holder. All secure.

**Tuesday 10-16**

3:10 p.m. Tree on power lines on Mountain Road. Contacted power company.

**Montague Center School**  
**Annual Halloween Festival**

Friday, Oct. 26th, 5-5:30 p.m. check in

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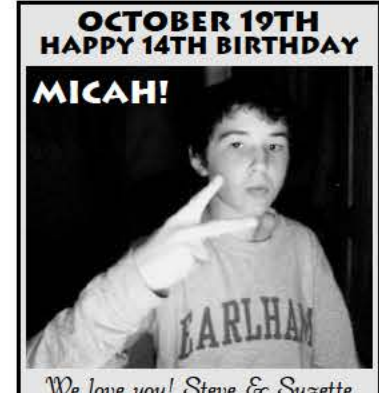
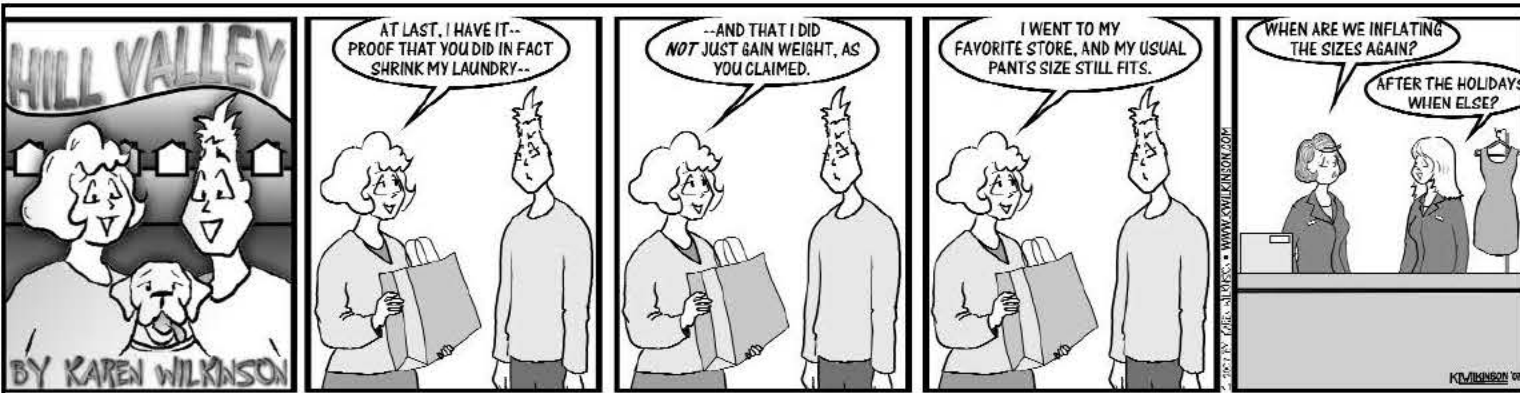
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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Waiting For Cable Access

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Questions arose at the Gill selectboard meeting on Monday, October 15th, about the lack of progress on a community access bulletin board, for which Gill cable television subscribers have been paying a surcharge on their bills for the last two years. Walnut Street resident Bev Demars raised the issue with town administrative assistant Tracy Rogers, asking her why the 3.1% access fee for "public, educational and governmental programming provided in Gill," was appearing on her September bill, when it appeared that no such programming was in fact being provided in Gill. Rogers did not know how to answer her question, so she brought the matter to the selectboard.

"When I got the bill, I noticed the charge. It said it was for cable access. Well we don't have anything like that in Gill. I don't think we should be paying for this. I could see it if they were recording the selectboard meetings," said Demars, who noted that her husband subscribed to a number of cable options, and their bill is high enough already. The local access fee adds another

\$1.07 to the monthly bill.

Reached by phone following the meeting, Demars searched through her cable bills for the last few months and found that she has been receiving the surcharge right along, although she noticed it for the first time only this month.

In fact, the additional charge has been appearing on Gill cable subscribers' bills since September of 2005, when the Gill selectboard inked a new 10-year contract with the town's cable television provider, ComCast, to extend service along West Gill Road, from Center to Dole Road, and along North Cross Road as well. At the time, then selectboard member Phil Maddern commented that the town of Gill would begin receiving a percentage of the cable subscriber fees, "to increase to a set percentage within the next few years," with which the town would be able to purchase equipment to provide access service. Maddern commented further that the town looked forward to establishing a computerized community bulletin board, and he expressed resignation over the prospect of

selectboard meetings eventually being broadcast, (MR III #43).

Since September of 2005, the town has expended funds from the cable fee account to purchase a "TV set, stand, and other equipment" to enable the town to provide a cable bulletin board service for subscribers, according to town treasurer Ronnie LaChance, but she did not have figures available to say how much money had been collected, how much spent, or what the remaining balance in the account was. LaChance said she would be able to provide those figures later in the week.

Reached by phone, Don Kruger, a member of the town's Information Technology committee who has assisted with establishing and updating the town's website (www.gill-mass.org), and who has helped the cable committee prepare for producing a cable bulletin board, confirmed that ComCast had finished wiring the selectboard meeting room at town hall, and said the town had purchased all the equipment needed to produce the bulletin board. According to reports from past selectboard meetings, those pur-

chases and wiring upgrades were for the most part completed more than a year ago.

At the Monday night meeting, the board looked to chair Lee Stevens, a member of the cable committee, to see what could be done to move the bulletin board project forward. "It's ready to go," said Stevens.

But the question remained, "Who will run it?" Ann Banash suggested asking Northfield Mount Hermon if anyone at that school would have time to program and update the bulletin board.

Speaking of NMH, the board received notice from the Massachusetts Development and Finance Agency of a \$75 million revenue bond project for Northfield Mount Hermon, which recently consolidated its operations at the Gill campus, closing its campus in Northfield. The \$75 million bond will be used by NMH to construct a new admissions building at the Gill campus, along with additions to two residence halls, and various other upgrades and improvements to campus buildings.

Gill received notification

from the state Department of Revenue that its free cash account has been certified at \$132,732. The DOR also sent a note advising the town not to dip into the account until next year, which was received with wry humor by the board.

Responding to an invitation from the finance committee, the selectboard hopes to set up a meeting soon "to set up ground rules," as board member Ann Banash put it, "and figure out a way to work together rather than separately," in preparation for the '09 budget process. The board hopes to meet with the finance committee at the beginning of November.

Rogers exclaimed, "The '09 budget process! But I feel like we don't have '08 done yet..."

On that note, board member Nancy Griswold said there was no news yet on finalizing Gill's property values from the DOR, so setting the tax rate will have to wait. Until then, the board is reluctant to schedule an override vote to fully fund town departments and the G-M school assessment for the current budget year.



## HIPPO from pg 1

include eggs and toast, English muffins, bagels with cream cheese, home fries, omelettes, French toast and Belgian waffles, served with Weiss' own blueberry sauce or real maple syrup.

Breakfast was so popular last weekend that at exactly 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Weiss said, he served up the last egg on the premises. At 11:35 a.m. he had to tempt three hungry breakfast patrons with his lunch menu.

"I hope people can come in, have a good breakfast and enjoy something a little different. They can sit and relax a few minutes, or take breakfast to go," said Weiss.

Weiss believes strongly in

sourcing culinary ingredients as locally as possible. The vegetables in his lunch and dinner offerings come from Rice's Farm in Northfield; ice cream from Snow's Dairy in Greenfield; blueberries from Benson's Farm in Heath; homemade desserts and rolls from Elm Farm Bakery in South Deerfield; pastries from Transylvania Bakery in Northfield; his own custom coffee blend from Dean's Beans in Orange; and his own "Hippo family blend of beers" from the Berkshire Brewing Company in Deerfield.

Cooking seasonally and locally also provides Weiss the opportunity to prepare unusual items such as the winter "strapetti" squash, on the spe-

cial's board yesterday.

"Strapetti squash has more flavor and is finer than spaghetti squash. I serve it with caramelized onions and apples, cinnamon and cardamom for spice," he said. "Last week we did carnival squash with a maple glaze."

The restaurant's artwork is also local - the landscapes of Erving photographers Brad Peters and Jan Ross grace the dining room walls, against a backdrop of colorful autumn leaves presently hiding the view of the Millers River behind the Route 2 eatery.

The hippo paintings and the large mural inside the front door are courtesy of artist Brent Eaton of Montague, aside from one darling blue

and pink hippo on a yellow background that was painted by Weiss' 11-year-old cousin. That portrait hangs above the bar.

"All the art is for sale," said Weiss, who enjoys supporting his neighbors. At the 9th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival September 15th - 16th, Weiss debuted a garlic hollandaise sauce, a garlic vinaigrette and a garlic barbecue sauce; the latter is now on the Hippo's regular menu.

Weiss performs culinary demonstrations regularly, offers full catering, and recently won first prize at the 2007 Greenfield Chowderfest for his homemade New England Clam Chowder.

The Smokin' Hippo got its

name from Weiss' long-time love of both barbecue and those water-loving African beasts. When, as a child, he was in the hospital, Weiss' mother gave him a stuffed hippo with an FM radio inside that he has cherished to this day. Ever since, he has collected hippos in all forms. For example, each table at the restaurant features a different set of hippo salt-and-pepper shakers.

Beside the new breakfast hours, the Smokin' Hippo is open for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and dinner from 4-9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; for lunch from Noon- 4 p.m. and dinner from 4-8 p.m. on Sunday.



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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Domestic Assaults and Chants**

**Thursday 10-11**  
8:55 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a larceny at a Griswold Street address. Medication was missing. Report taken.

**Friday 10-12**  
1:01 a.m. Report of a domestic abuse alarm sounding at a Wendell Road address. Alarm was false due to a bad phone line. Everything okay.

8:09 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a disturbance at the crosswalk on Crocker Avenue in front of Sheffield School. Found to be issues between parent and crossing guard. Advised of options.

**Saturday 10-13**  
2:00 p.m. Walk-in to station reported an assault at a High Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

4:02 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a 3rd Street address. Subject placed in protective custody.

**Sunday 10-14**  
11:35 p.m. Report of a disturbance at a

neighbor's at a K Street address. [redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

**Monday 10-15**  
11:58 p.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance at an E. Main Street address. Caller reports hearing screaming and chanting. Found to be some sort of school gathering. Everything okay.

**Tuesday 10-16**  
4:37 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a 3rd Street address. Money and medication missing. No sign of forced entry. Report taken.

7:30 p.m. Report of a larceny from an 11th Street address. A wallet was stolen by a family member. Report taken.

**Wednesday 10-17**  
3:35 a.m. Report of a noise disturbance at an E Main Street address. Caller reports hearing a noise in basement. Officer checked basement, nothing found. Advised to contact landlord.

**OBITUARY**

**Lois MacIntire, 77, of Turners Falls**

**TURNERS FALLS** - Lois A. (Lilja) MacIntire, 77, of 116 Montague St., died Thursday October 11th, 2007 at home.

She was born in Malden on March 13th, 1930. She graduated from Danvers High School in 1948 and the Salem Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. She had been a resident of Hopkinton prior to relocating to Turners Falls in 2005.

Lois was a registered nurse for the Adult Day Center in Framingham for 23 years, retiring in 2005.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Raymond J. MacIntire, a son, Allan K. and his wife Faith Diemand of Wendell, a



Lois MacIntire

daughter, Leanne MacIntire and her husband David Zuckerman of Bel Air, Md., a brother, Richard Lilja of Danvers, two sisters,

Marilyn White of the state of Florida and Sharon King of Peabody, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial gathering will be held on a date and time to be announced. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, 101 Munson St., Suite 201, P.O. Box 1558, Greenfield, MA 01302.

Kostanski Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Sympathy message available at [www.kostanskifuneralhome.com](http://www.kostanskifuneralhome.com)

**ART from pg 1**

contact Carolyn Manley at 978-544-7028.

Another aspect of the committee's work will be "decorating the wall of the large meeting room with composites of historical photographs of Wendell," from the Wendell historical commission's collec-

this community space with an upholstered 12-foot cornice above the north facing bay window, done in blue paisley material purchased from the Textile Store in Greenfield, to match the blue of the lower walls.

The walls in the hallway are not entirely bare at this point, either. Visitors during the dedication ceremony will see one

ridor: Jack Ellis's ox team's yoke. Ellis farmed the spread directly south of the town common for many years. The yoke, which selectboard member Dan Keller said recently should be considered a testament to all the hard work Wendell citizens have done to create the new town library and office building, will share wall space with

displayed in a plexiglass frame, when funds are available to mount it. It contains squares made by a number of Wendell citizens for the town's bicentennial celebration, picturing

numerous town buildings and scenes, including a central embroidered square showing the front page of the *Wendell Post*.



PHOTO courtesy of WENDELL HISTORICAL COMMISSION

This period photo of the Wendell Depot train station, taken before the flood of 1937, will hang on the wall of the meeting room in the new town office building in Wendell Center, along with a number of other vintage photos from the town historical commission's archive.

tion, von Ranson said. She said the committee had already added one decorative touch to

historic artifact of the town center's agricultural heritage, hanging on the north-south cor-

ner for many years. The quilt, which has been kept by Kathy Becker, will be

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**Contact for more information:**

Mary Gilman [mcgilman@gis.net](mailto:mcgilman@gis.net); Carolyn Manley [cman19@wildblue.net](mailto:cman19@wildblue.net); Susan von Ranson 978-544-3758

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**MEETING** from pg 1

have put us so far back into the fiscal year that we would have had difficulty setting the tax rate. So the finance committee voted very reluctantly to take the entire amount out of free cash."

Mike Naughton, of Precinct 2, questioned this approach. "If all of this comes out of free cash, doesn't that essentially put us \$300,000 in the hole going into next year's budget process?"

John Hanold replied, "We are starting the month of October with \$703,000 in free cash... So it would indeed reduce the amount of free cash by \$300,000; it still leaves us with about \$400,000."

Naughton was not impressed.

"Well, that wasn't quite my question. We're using free cash to fund the operating budget.... We're using essentially one-time money to fund an ongoing expense. We're increasing our appropriation to the schools by \$300,000 over what town meeting and the finance committee recommended as being affordable in June, and now we're saying, 'Well, we'll take it out of savings.' My question is, 'Are you saying we'll go into 2009 with no problem because we have plenty of free cash?'"

"By no means," Hanold replied. "We're painfully aware of your point. We will have used a great deal of reserves in settling the 2008 issues, and so we'll have a challenge ahead of us."

Naughton pursued his quarry. "Do you have plans for dealing with that challenge?"

Hanold paused before replying, "We have not yet begun the budget cycle for the next fiscal year. It's a little early to speak on behalf of the whole committee. But I'll tell you we've been talking about this back to April. I would say there is no specific plan. And I would say: cost control and revenue enhancement. That and a quarter will get you a cup of coffee."

Not at any coffeeshop around here. Naughton: "With all due respect, it seems to me a little late to be thinking about this problem. We walked into it at the district meeting, when it was recommended to spend this money in the first place. At the time, there was no clear recommendation from town leaders where this money would come from. If you don't think an override is going to pass, then you only have one choice: taking at least some of it out of the operating budget. I think that taking all of it out of free cash simply postpones the problem. Does it not seem that we are laying ourselves open to asking for an override next year, and significant reductions in the town operating budget, simply on the basis of where the school appropriation is set?"

Hanold: "I recognize the problem. It's a problem of some concern to me, and to other members of the finance committee. I'd like to go back to what Jeff said. At the district meeting, we committed as a town to spending an additional \$298,000. The question is, 'Where is it going to come from?' The choice seemed best to us to take it out of savings, as you put it. I recognize that is not desirable, but it's a pragmatic answer."

Naughton persisted, "With all due respect, it seems pragmatic because you're really avoiding the problem." Naughton has been hammering this same point at town meeting for many years, but his thunder was augmented by the size of the reserve sums expended this year.

Moderator Ray Godin cut him off. "This is not a debating society." He thanked Naughton for

raising objections to the motion on the floor, but asked him to offer an amendment or sit down.

"It's too complex to suggest cuts in the operating budget now," Naughton said, "but I find it very difficult to support this article."

As he took his seat, Robin Sherman, of Precinct 1, took up the gauntlet. "This question is to the town accountant. Could you please tell us what is the total

amount of reserves used to fund the school budget this year?"

agencies do not look very favorably at funding operating expenses with one time sources that we're not going to have next year."

Precinct 2's Art Gilmore said the town was "between a rock and hard place," regarding the supplemental appropriation for the schools. "If we don't go along with this, we'll be back here again looking at another way to fund the schools in November or December."

The motion passed, with a number of dissenting voices.

Next, town meeting approved a motion advanced by Singleton to fund a long-range joint budget plan for the town and the G-M schools. Although both the finance committee and the selectboard divided on the measure, and Naughton once again rose in opposition: "We already know what the problems are. We need to address them today..." still the measure was approved by a voice vote. The vote required a two-thirds majority, since half the funding for the \$10,000 plan will come from the education stabilization fund.

Just before the vote on this article, the selectboard's Patricia Pruitt delivered Naughton a tart retort. "I'd like to urge Mr. Naughton, since he feels we do know the answer to all these financial problems, that he would out with it. I read his articles in the paper, which make it sound like everything is absolutely impossible, and yet I never hear a solution offered." Pruitt supported the motion, saying a five-year plan for the town and schools would put us "ahead of the curve" in devising solutions to the ongoing fiscal crisis.

Although many in the audience shook their heads when Godin declared a two-thirds majority in support of the planning measure, no one stood to oppose his declaration and demand a standing vote, so the article carried.

Turning to the police station, town meeting sat through a slide presentation from the building committee familiar to those who attended the village information

see MEETING pg 13

**"Cost control and revenue enhancement: that and a quarter will get you a cup of coffee."**

- Montague finance committee chair John Hanold, speaking on the town's budget prospects at town meeting on October 11th

amount of reserves used to fund the school budget this year?"

"Technically..." Carolyn Olsen began, "It depends on how we view that... The original article (funding the G-M schools at the June 2nd town meeting) had it all out of taxation. So technically, this is the only amount of reserves that has been used for the operating budget of the schools for this year."

This was a careful answer, which avoided mention of the fact that in order to fund the schools in June, Montague had already expended \$625,984 of its reserves to balance its own operating budget. Adding on the \$297,596 that town meeting eventually approved for the schools last Thursday brings the sum of reserves Montague has spent to balance operating budgets this year to a grand total of \$923,580, an amount that will be built into the base for next year's budget cycle.

Sherman said, "I want to second Mike Naughton's concern about the size of the problem this creates for next year, and also to suggest it may create a problem for us this year, when we go to borrow money. The bond rating

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION  
**BY FRED CICETTI**  
**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** *If I have a fever, at what temperature should I go to the doctor?*

An oral temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit or a rectal or ear temperature above 101 F is considered a fever in the majority of adults.

If your temperature reaches 103 F, you should contact a physician. Another alarm bell is a fever that lasts more than three

days.

In addition, get to a doctor immediately if you have a fever with any of the following:

Unrelenting vomiting, trouble breathing, a strong headache, confusion, pain when urinating, swollen throat, skin rash, sensitivity to light, stiff neck, chest pain, extreme listlessness or irritability, and abdominal pain.

A fever usually means your body is fighting an infection from bacteria or a virus. In older adults, the immune system doesn't function as efficiently as it does in younger people. The body's fever response to infection is not always automatic in

elderly people. More than 20 percent of adults over age 65 who have serious bacterial infections do not have fevers.

Body temperature fluctuates during the day between 97 F and 99 F. When you wake up, your temperature is at the low end of the range; it increases as the day progresses. The common standard for a "normal" temperature is 98.6 F. However, the range of normal is about a degree above or below 98.6.

Use a high-quality thermometer to check your temperature. Thermometers today are high-tech electronic gizmos with beeps and digital readouts. Those

mercury-filled glass thermometers are out because they are environmental hazards. Tympanic thermometers that get a quick read from the ear are good for older adults.

Symptoms that can accompany fever include: headache, perspiration, shivering, aches, diminished appetite, dehydration and malaise. A fever higher than 103 F can cause seizures and hallucinations.

If you get a fever, it's important to take in enough liquids to prevent dehydration.

Physicians often recommend ibuprofen, acetaminophen or aspirin to lower a high fever.

Taking medicine to lower a fever is especially important for older adults with heart conditions that might be affected by the stress of fever.

But don't take any drugs without medical supervision. Over-the-counter medicines can be harmful if you take too much of them.

If you have a fever below 102 F, medicine isn't usually recommended to lower your temperature. Low-grade fevers may be your body's way of fighting an infection. Take a tepid bath. Wear lightweight clothes.

If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com)

*If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com).*

**MEETING** from pg 12

sessions in the run-up to Thursday's vote. At the outset, committee member Jay DiPucchio reminded the meeting that putting off the long-delayed building project would only result in a higher construction costs down the road. He gave the example of the Gill-Montague bridge, which the state estimated would cost \$12 million to repair in 2000; now the price tag for the same repairs has risen to \$47 million.

"Some have described the current police station as an embarrassment to the employees who have to work there," said DiPucchio. "That might describe the building inspector's office. This is a more serious matter. We're talking about the department responsible for the safety of our community."

He said the current station threatens the town with a "significant liability expense," due to dangerous conditions for staff, detainees, and the public. He concluded the committee had worked hard over two years to come up with "the right sized project for our community's needs, and ability to pay for it."

[Building inspector David Jensen had criticized the size of the proposed 12,000-square-foot police station at the September

24th selectboard meeting, saying, "Nobody's fully addressing the scale of this building. The police station you are preparing to build is the same size or bigger than town hall."]

The estimated cost of borrowing for the new police station will add approximately \$115 to the average homeowner's property tax bill, if the town winds up borrowing \$5.5 million at 5% interest for 20 years. The town has received a \$200,000 grant from the state Executive Office of Public Safety towards the cost of the new station, and will be applying for \$700,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the project next year, to help defray the cost.

Police chief Ray Zukowski told town meeting members not to worry that the police station would be moving from downtown. "We're not moving to the moon. We're just moving to a more strategic location for access to the other four villages. We will be statistically dead center in the middle to respond to the daily police activities that we face."

Zukowski defended the building's size, saying the committee had pared it down from the 18,000-square-foot project recommended by their architect for a community the size of Montague, with the call volume the Montague police department

handles. "It's the same size as Sirum Equipment or the Montague highway building. It's not a monstrosity. This footprint will give us a good-sized building to work in."

Selectboard chair Pat Allen's remark from December of 2004, when Zukowski won the unanimous endorsement of the board to serve as Montague's chief of police, seemed on the mark when town meeting approved the warrant article for the building project without opposition. At the time, Allen called Zukowski the right man to guide the process forward and get a new police station built. He moved one giant step closer to that goal Thursday night.

Speaking in favor of the new station, Precinct 2's Gilmore said, "I support this project wholeheartedly. We live on a fixed income. We spend \$1.00 every morning on two newspapers. If we can't put out \$8.50 a month for this, then something must be wrong.

"Only a few of you remember when the station was on Fourth Street, next to the American House," Gilmore continued. "The only thing we had to worry about in those days was the gambling house getting raided on 2nd Street, or over in the Patch. But times have changed, and the interstate is coming up from the

south," bringing with it a host of troubles, Gilmore said. "Now look at where the police are; it's a dump. Would the teachers work there? Put this before the voting public. It's something we were asked to do 20 years ago. We're faced with a situation that's intolerable for them to work in."


Town meeting agreed.

Turning next to the Strathmore Mill, which the town is taking for nearly \$200,000 in back taxes from the current owner, Jerry Jones, town planner Dan Laroche reminded town meeting members they had voted down a very similar proposition - to spend \$300,000 to buy the mill complex outright from Jones - falling eight votes shy of a two thirds majority to do so on October 24th, 2004, nearly three years earlier.

So what has changed? "None of us wants to own the Strathmore complex," said Allen, speaking for the selectboard. "We sure don't want to own it for very long. The fire on the morning of May 26th changed our relationship with the complex." She cited the threat to Southworth Paper if another fire should break out at the unsecured mill. Southworth is one of the town's major employers, and the major revenue contributor to the town's sewage treatment plant. She said the Strathmore held

potential to Montague's future tax base and economic development. "We feel this is another article that unfortunately must be passed."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio spoke strongly in favor of securing the mill buildings and structuring a request for proposals to find a competent buyer to develop the mill along lines compatible with the town's plans for the historic industrial district. "We have two buildings that have to have their roofs put on very quickly. This is an opportunity to take control of our future. We have plenty of examples of what can happen if we don't take action," he concluded.

Jeanne Golrick, speaking for the abutting landowner, the Montague Energy Group, which had been dismantling the Indeck coal plant and shipping it to Guatemala earlier this year, warned that the town would inherit unresolved issues over property boundaries and rights of way if they took the Strathmore. As she sat down, Precinct 2's Marge Levenson called the question, and town meeting voted unanimously to support the article, and spend \$300,000 to secure the mill. Or nearly unanimously. Peter Golrick, of Precinct 2, voted "No," but too quietly for his opposing vote to register. 

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**  
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ray Mason Band* and *Angry Johnny and the Killbillies*. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

Concert at the Bookmill: *The Larry Dougher Band*: Blues and beyond. Larry pays tribute to his blues heroes, and infuses the Chicago blues with his own intensity and fearlessness: [www.lband.com](http://www.lband.com). Food & drink available from the Lady Killigrew Pub. 8 p.m., \$12.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH**  
Chris Chandler, folk singer, songwriter and spoken-word performing artist will appear at the Echo Lake Coffee House at the Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett. Chris will be accompanied by Boston-based musician, Jim Infantino. Admission is \$12/\$10 seniors. 413-548-9394.

Five College Consort of Viols: Bach and Purcell Fugues and Fantazias in Deerfield. 7:30 p.m. at Caswell Library, Main School Building, Deerfield Academy, Old Main Street, Deerfield. Pre-concert talk by Walter Denny at 7 p.m. \$25 general, \$35 preferred, \$10 student. Information at 413-534-8888 or [www.arcadiaplayers.org](http://www.arcadiaplayers.org).

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH & 21ST**  
Arena Civic Theatre presents Phantom Tollbooth. At the Shea Theater, Ave A, Turners Falls. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students, and \$8 for children ages 12 and under.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST**  
Scandinavian dances are Third Sundays at the Montague Grange,

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Montague Center. Music for traditional couples dancing will be played by Marilyn Butler, Andrea Larson and Amy Parker & friends. Finnskogspols and other dances will be taught by Joan and Jim Savitt. All levels of experience are welcome! No partner necessary. \$8 donation suggested. 3 to 6 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*, local rockers. Come to dance. 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Karaoke, 8 p.m. - 12 a.m., free.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 22ND**  
Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, 6 - 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH**  
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quiz night with W. Quizmaster Chad. 8 p.m., free.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**  
Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Open Mic*, all levels welcome. Host Peter Kim. 8:30 p.m. to midnite. No cover.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH**  
Healing Environment Concert Series at the Franklin Medical Center last Fridays, in the main lobby. Tim Van Egmond, hammered dulcimer, October 26th; Jerry Noble and Bob Sparkman, jazz duo, November 30th; and the Northside Saxophone Quartet in a special holiday concert, Friday, December 21st.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Fern and et sec Amis*, cajun music. 9 to 11 p.m.

NMH Concerts Showcase World Jazz. Northfield Mount Hermon School welcomes the public and families of students to two free concerts. 2:30 at Memorial Chapel, the World Music Combo Sax Quartet will perform traditional music from India and Africa, as well as American jazz. The World Music Percussion Ensemble has lined up two African chant rhythms and a Korean drum improvisation. At 7:30, Memorial Chapel, the Jazz Ensemble performs three modern jazz compositions, featuring NMH students. The Concert Band plays contemporary pieces: Fanfare for the Common Man, Flight of the Flutes, and Songs of Earth, Sky, Water, and Fire. Directions call 498-3000 or [www.nmhschool.org](http://www.nmhschool.org).

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Love Bomb* - rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH & 27TH**  
The Country Players presents: Haunted Lives, three short plays by John Pielmeier. At The Shea



*Remembering Matt, an assemblage exhibit of original, collaborative work inspired by Matthew Leighton at the Artspace, Greenfield. Monday to Friday, 1 to 6 p.m. until November 2nd and Saturdays October 20th & 27th from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. info 772-6811.*

Theater, Turners Falls. Continues **November 2nd & 3rd**. Reserve tickets 863-2281.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH**  
Silent Auction at The Pushkin, 332 Main St., Greenfield. Artwork by Kerry Anne Kazokas. Live music by Adam Bergeron, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Joy Sumberg, 6 - 7:30 p.m., John Clark, 8 - 9:30 p.m. Bidding begins at 4 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. Take home the artwork at the end of the night!

Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra and Chorus begins its 69th season of Youthful Visions with a program of "Auspicious Beginnings," featuring early works of Barber, Bernstein and Puccini. Local tenor Alan Schneider and baritone Anton Belov join the PVS in Puccini's only choral mass, *Messa a 4 Voci*. Paul Phillips, PVS Music Director, conducts. Music at 7:30 p.m., with pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Greenfield High School Auditorium, 1 Lenox Ave, Greenfield. Advance tickets are \$20 general, \$16 senior, \$12 student and \$6 children. [www.pvso.org](http://www.pvso.org) or 773-3664.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Halloween party costume contest*.

Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Lost in the Groove*, rock and blues. 9 to 11 p.m.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH**  
Quabbin Reservation Exploration. Join Dave Small in search of migrating waterfowl and song birds inside the gates of the Quabbin's watershed. Bring lunch, water, camera, binoculars and your sense of adventure. Meet at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol at 8 a.m. for carpooling. (978) 413-1772, [Dave@dsmall.net](mailto:Dave@dsmall.net), to pre-register. Space is limited.

**THROUGH OCTOBER**  
*Time Mural* Changes the Scene at the Village Co-op throughout October. Gardener and Macaylla Silver are painting the walls with a *Time Mural*, which will change as the painting continues and then disappear on October 31st. Open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., 7 days a week during October. The Village Coop, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road, Leverett 367-9794.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND**  
*Moonlight and Morningstar* at the Smokin' Hippo restaurant this Friday and every first Friday of the month though February. The Smokin' Hippo, 20 French King Highway (Rt. 2), Erving. (413) 423-3220, [www.thesmokinhippo.com](http://www.thesmokinhippo.com).

**THROUGH NOVEMBER 4TH**  
*Made of Thunder, Made of Glass:* American Indian Beadwork of the Northeast features one hundred beaded bags and hats from the Gerry Biron & JoAnne Russo collection. Accompanied by contemporary paintings of Native Americans by Gerry Biron, of Mi'kmaq descent. Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 774-7476.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD**  
The Echo Lake Coffee House at the Town Hall, Leverett hosts CD Release Party for Peter Siegel's new album, *Living in Rome*. Ethan Hazzard-Watkins accompanies on fiddle. Admission \$12/\$10 seniors, 7:30 p.m. info: 548-9394.

**HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER**  
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**Upcoming at the Discovery Center**  
Winter hours open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday and by special arrangement.

<b>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH</b> Discover watershed wonders: Exhibit tour. 1 to 2 p.m. Join fish and wildlife service staff for an interpretive tour and exploration of our exhibits. Journey the 410 miles of the Connecticut River watershed without getting your feet wet.	<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20TH</b> Watershed Wonders: Exhibit Tours. Join US Fish and Wildlife Service staff for an interpretive tour and exploration of our exhibits. 1 p.m.	<b>FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH</b> Owls, Bats, and Pumpkins. Join Refuge staff as we explore these signs of October's end. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH</b> Explore Nature along the Bike Path.
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Find signs of animals and plants preparing for winter. If weather is poor, we will explore the exhibits in the Center. 8:30 - 9:30 am  
**October Photo Display** by John Green - Naturalist Photographer. Visit the Great Falls Discovery Center's Great Hall to see these natural history photographs.

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**ONGOING**  
Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls on display: Michael Yamashita's *Great Wall of China & The Silk Road*. On display through December 16th.

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- 4. ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE** PG13  
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MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. MICHAEL CLAYTON** R  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:15 3:15
- 6. THE COMEBACKS** PG13  
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN, MON 12:30 3:30
- 7. THE FIRE NEXT TIME**  
DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound  
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# A Nature Walk in Turners Falls

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Since May, Steve Winters has been leading morning nature walks along the Connecticut River and around downtown Turners Falls. Called 'Nature at 8,' the walks have departed from the bird bath in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center, and followed a circuit across the IP footbridge to the far bank of the power canal, along the bike path to Unity Park, stopping at the old bridge abutments before backtracking up Williams Way to L Street, past the community gardens, before making a final stop at the Avenue A, for a cup of coffee, naturally.

The walks never draw much of a crowd. "Sometimes two people come; sometimes only one," remarked Winters unconcernedly. Sometimes Winters, a naturalist and geologist working part time for the Department of Conservation and Recreation during the summer, just makes the circuit by himself.

"It's great to be out at this time of day," said Winters on Tuesday, October 16th, as he started out on his next to last nature walk of the season. The guided walks will resume next May.

As he stood on the narrow spit of grass between the power canal and the Connecticut, Winters gazed across to the confluence of the Falls River. With the main force of the river's current running in the manmade channel behind him, mist rose off the surface of the water in mare's tails, serrated with slanting shelves of sedimentary rock from the riverbed below. Across the way, trees on the far bank were beginning to show fall color, later and less brilliant than in recent years.

"I love this view. It looks so primal here," Winters said. "It's a nice, peaceful spot."

He searched the scene for mergansers, who tend to frequent this stretch of calm, shallow water, but found only "one lone duck - a female mallard," paddling off in the direction of Gill.

We stood quietly. After a moment, a crow took off heavily

from the canalside bank and flapped toward a solitary poplar tree growing from an islet in midstream. It dove into the green-gold foliage and dislodged another bird, which flew a few dozen yards downstream and hovered there, forty feet in mid-air, with the sun reflecting off its white chest feathers and the undersides of its wings. Winters caught the sight in his binoculars.

"It's a kingfisher!" he exclaimed. "I didn't know kingfishers could hover like that..."

The kingfisher beat its wings rapidly, but remained otherwise stationary, until it suddenly dove straight down to the water's surface as if it had spotted prey, before pulling up short and flying back to the disputed poplar, perching on a branch at a safe remove from the interloping crow.



The confluence of the Fall River and the Connecticut

Backtracking across the footbridge, Winters stopped to watch a construction crew working at the top of the fish ladder, where a new conduit had recently been installed beneath the dam to ease the passage for migrating fish, so they would no longer have to

Crossing beneath the bridge and behind the police station, Winters stopped by the riverbank upstream of the dam, where a very different body of water flowed: wide and full despite a summer of little rain. Six mallards departed hastily from the shallow water near the bank at his approach. As they reached midstream, five turned southeast, with the sun on their faces; the other glided nonchalantly downstream toward the dam.

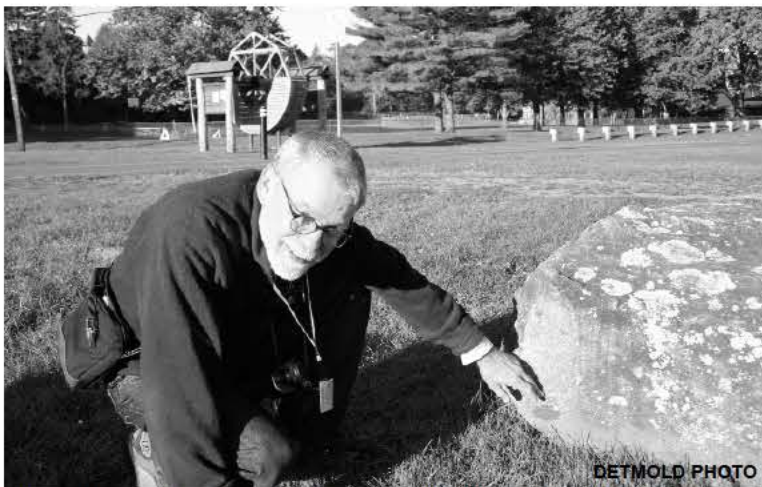
On the telephone wire above the buoys separating errant boaters from the dam, five solemn cormorants sat. As Winters approached along the shore, one spread its wings and held them open to the sun. He said sometimes as many as 50 or 60 cormorants sit here, on the buoys and on the wires, socializing in the morning, and examining the passing water for fish.

He looked down from the old Red Bridge abutment, but saw no fish. Only a red plastic shopping cart, broken free of the herd at Brooks, and now reef building beneath the stone foundation. Winters said another domestic escapee - a white and brown rat - also makes his home near the

bridge abutments.

Standing by the line of millstones that line the parking lot, each with their own carved identifying numbers - were they once employed at the cutlery? - he looked across the cove toward Eagle Island, where, Winters said, the juveniles have long since left the nest. But the adults are occasionally seen, renovating in advance of winter. "The nest kind of falls apart in summer," said Winters, and in the fall the adult eagles bring sticks to rebuild it. Once, recently, Winters watched an adult eagle on the 'Eagle Cam' at the Discovery Center, standing in the nest with a fish in his mouth, for about half an hour, looking disoriented, with no young mouths to feed.

Walking back to town via the L Street community gardens, the chickadees were much in evidence, working over the seed heads of the late blooming sunflowers. Brussels sprouts grow to great heights, with no one harvesting them. Feral cats line the warm doorways of Fourth Street, one more sign of nature returning to downtown to claim her own.



Steve Winters points out an armored mudball by the Red Bridge abutment. Turners and Gill have the only known terrestrial alluvial fan examples of this unusual geologic phenomenon.

"I have to learn to stay put and be attentive," said Winters.

A cormorant lifted heavily off the river and pumped its wings, gaining speed and holding altitude just above the surface of the water as it made its way toward the mouth of the Fall River.

cross the rapid spillway current to get upstream. The nearly completed bike path was closed temporarily for repairs to the fence, before the entire path is turned over to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, who will manage and maintain it.

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